

Message Text

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EC BRUSSELS 23 FEB 77 QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, IC

SUBJECT: ICELAND REVISES TARIFF SCHEDULE

1. LAST MONTH THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT PUBLISHED
A REVISED TARIFF SCHEDULE IN ICELANDIC. A PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION OF THE 200 PLUS PAGE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS ITS
PURPOSE IS TO EXTEND THE TARIFF CUTTING SCHEDULE EARLIER
ADOPTED IN CONNECTION WITH ICELAND'S AGREEMENT WITH THE
EC. IN ITS BUDGET PRESENTATION, THE GOI NOTED THE
CHANGES WOULD REDUCE TARIFF REVENUES BY \$3 MILLION.

2. MOST OF THE TARIFF REVISIONS ARE DOWNWARD AND
WHERE SEPARATE SCHEDULES EXIST FOR THE EC, DUTIES
FOR OTHER COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH LOWERED REMAIN
PROPORTIONALLY HIGHER THAN DUTIES FOR EC COUNTRIES.
IN MANY CASES DUTIES FOR EC COUNTRIES WILL BE ZERO BY
1980, BUT SOME DUTY REMAINS THEREAFTER FOR NON-EC
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COUNTRIES.

RELATIVELY FEW CHANGES WERE MADE TO REDUCE DUTIES
ON IMPORTED ITEMS TO ZERO FOR ALL COUNTRIES. THUS
THE SYSTEM IS VERY DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST U.S. EXPORTS.
MOREOVER, NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WERE MADE IN AREAS OF
MOST POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO THE U.S., NAMELY, ELECTRICAL
AND NON-ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, AND TRANSPORTATION

EQUIPMENT.

3. THE TARIFF SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE ONLY IN ICELANDIC. BECAUSE IT WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED AGAIN THIS YEAR TO CONFORM TO THE BRUSSELS TARIFF NOMENCLATURE. NO ENGLISH VERSION WILL BE MADE. MIN COMMERCE OFFICIALS SAID IT WILL BE NOTIFIED TO EFTA, EEC AND GATT WITH BRIEF EXPLANATION IN ENGLISH. TO THE EXTENT IT FOLLOWS THE ENGLISH 1974 SCHEDULE (WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY SENT DEPT.), NUMBERS CAN USUALLY BE MATCHED TO IDENTIFY ITEMS. HOWEVER, MANY NEW SUBCATEGORIES HAVE BEEN ADDED. TWO COPIES OF THE SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT EB/TA UNDER SEPARATE COVER. CHANGES HAVE BEEN NOTED ON THESE COPIES WITH APPROPRIATE EXPLANATION.
BLAKE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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